



Department of Justice

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“PLATINUM CREW” LEADER RECEIVES 35-YEAR SENTENCE

DAYTON – Christopher Joseph Hunter, age 34, of Dayton and Centerville, Ohio, pursuant to a judgment entered by the United States District Court in Dayton yesterday, has been sentenced to 35 years in prison for his role as the leader of a local drug conspiracy that operated in the Dayton Metropolitan area for at least five years. Hunter’s group was known as the “The Platinum Crew,” and they processed, packaged and distributed ounce quantities of cocaine on a weekly and sometimes daily basis until their arrest. Hunter and his crew were known to carry guns.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced the judgment. Federal agents were assisted in the investigation by Dayton Police Department Safe Streets Task Force, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, and Centerville Police Department.

In July 2006, a federal jury convicted Hunter of one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. He was also convicted of one count each of: possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense, being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it.

The jury reached that verdict after an eight-day trial before United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose

In April 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Hunter, along with James Morris Vroom, in a Superceding Indictment. Vroom pled guilty prior to trial. Five other co-conspirators also pled guilty to related charges prior to Hunter’s trial. All received prison sentences.

According to the trial testimony, the Platinum Crew began its conspiracy by at least early 2000 and continued until being arrested in November 2005. The group processed and sold the cocaine in various apartments and motels rooms in the Dayton metropolitan area, moving frequently when a place became “hot.” They used guns and even made deliveries to customers. When taken as a whole, the trial testimony indicated approximately 67 to 95 kilograms of cocaine were processed and distributed by Hunter and the Platinum Crew during the five year period charged in the Superceding Indictment.

“Drug dealing will not be tolerated in our community,” Lockhart said. “This sentence should send a message to others who may be involved in such activity, especially those who are armed, to stop before they throw their lives away.”

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation between the local law enforcement agencies and the ATF, as well as Assistant United States Attorney Margaret Quinn, who prosecuted the case and recently retired.